VP5QED PRESS - QSL's

P.O. Box 1523, Boca Raton, Florida 33432

November 9, 1982

C/O Ted Stiller
Mr. David B. DeFebo, President
The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc.
2760 N. 55th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Dave:

Your letter of October 20, 1982 requesting $3.00--did not sound like the kind of letter I would expect to receive from M. R. A. C. Frankly, as a member of that fine club, I'm ashamed of it. It seems to me that, if that letter reflects the attitude of the present membership majority, things have certainly change since the days when I went to meetings in the old Milwaukee Public Library. I would like to make the following observations:

1. If no provisions were made for financing the "Life Memberships Program", why not do so now? Since the "Program" appears to be printing and mailing the roster, and 10 bulletins per year, there would seem to be no real "Program" at all. The roster and the Bulletins must both be printed anyway. The number of extra copies for the Life members couldn't possibly cost more than a fraction of a cent each. As a man with 40 years experience in printing and mailing I believe I know what I'm talking about.

2. I don't see many advertisers in the roster any more and none in the monthly (?) bulletins. Why not? As the member, at one time, responsible for selling these ads, I believe that both should cost nothing to print or mail. Perhaps the members are too lazy these days to serve their club.

3. There are other ways to make money for a non-profit organization. I remember, when the ARRL convention was held in Milwaukee, considerable money was needed in advance to underwrite the costs. (I acted the part of "The Old Man" at the Wouff Hong ceremony.)

4. When the club decided to equip an emergency mobile vehicle with all-band capability, money and donations were obtained but not without some effort by the members. I assume that today's members would avoid such a project because "no provision was made" in the past to finance it.

5. Regardless of all of the above, I feel that, without the heritage of the past, M. R. A. C. is just another ham radio club. At the top of the page your letter carries the slogan "Now In Our 65th Year". Without the old-timers, the life members, you could not make that statement. You owe to them the age and history that permits M. R. A. C. to be the "oldest continuously active amteur radio club" in the world. Without the members you now want to dump out like yesterday's rubbish, you could not have reached the present pinacle of exclusivity described in your two slogans. You owe a debt to those who bridge the gap of history to the present time that $3.00 will never pay. To suggest that they are "no longer interested" in M. R. A. C. just because they do not attend club functions and do not send you $3.00 is not logical. It is a short sighted conclusion bordering on personal insult to suggest they resign. You should refuse to accept any such resignation even if offered because M. R. A. C. needs them to protect its heritage; they really don't need M. R. A. C.

6. Some old timers may be financially better off than others but non are as well off physically and mentally as the younger members.

However, I, for one, feel indebted to those who organized M. R. A. C. before my time and permitted me to join and eventually made me a Life Member, with the honors which that title once bestowed upon the recipients. As a token of gratitude to those before me, and as a response to your request for $3.00, I hereby offer the following:

A. I will personally cause our QSL printer to print the 1983 Roster and I will pay all over 50% of what the M. R. A. C. paid for the 1982 Rosters. However, all former members including Life members will be listed and in Bold type, even if deceased.

B. I reserve the right to revise the format to improve the product and will pay personally for such changes if they add to the cost.

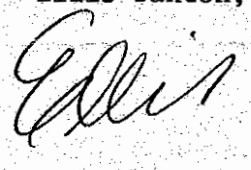
C. As an additional source of revenue for Club projects, VP5QED Press will appoint M. R. A. C. its agent for sale of QSL cards and pay M. R. A. C. a fee equal to 25% of the gross order amount and we will be fully responsible for all costs including postage. This offer is for the calendar year 1983 only.

I hope this letter will serve to focus attention on an injustice the Club appears to forcing upon itself and its obligation to history. The offers above must be accepted by or before December 15, 1982 or they must be considered withdrawn.

I'm sorry I will be unable to attend Old Timers Nite. My sincere best wishes to all members.

73,

Ellis Saxton, W4QED.



P. S. My Check for $6.00 enclosed.